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Parent Teacher Association

145 West 84th Street New York, NY 10024

General Board Minutes

Wednesday September 16, 2015 6:30pm

Committee Chairs

Robin Burchill, *Communications*
Ann Marie Foss, *College Readiness*
Bill Gerstel, *Fundraising*

Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by president Robin Kleuber.

Welcome to one and all. If you haven't been receiving emails from the PTA, PLEASE add your name to Robin Burchill's list. If you think you've signed up but aren't getting the emails let Robin know as well. Introduction of Executive Board and SLT members. Robin will be keeping office hours. Scott Bruss is approachable for issues and concerns. Danielle feels that the parent coordinator is just a complaint board.

Scanners: New parents are concerned. Lets make an ad hoc committee. It's a heated issue.

Principal's Report: 6:47pm Danielle school year with 400 students. There are 2 new staff members, Ms. Pelton will be teaching art/media and Ms. Rashidova will be teaching History/Humanities. New set up with guidance counselors: Ms. Morris will cover 9th and 11th grade, and Ms. Houlihan will cover 10th and 12th. New superintendent is Donald Conyers, office is at 131 Livingston St. (He oversees half of New Visions network high schools.) Our network has never changed. We are a part of the New Visions affinity group. New safety protocol is in place. New alarms at all doors. Clubs: They will all happen at the same time. Friday afternoon starting at 11:30.

Helping students connect with community service on Friday afternoons. May try something new.

Schedule: comes out of constant innovation. Want it to get it better and better. i.e. outcome based learning, was a positive shift. Joined a new group to help with grading system. Problem based learning. Combined integrated program. Part of networks of schools. Second cohort of I zone schools. Last year joined the PROSE network. How we structure ...mastery collaborative. New Visions, Building new small schools..... Reasoning to be innovative. Be prepared, college ready, support, use time, high school needs to be engaging to create stronger learners. Try to increase personalization of school experience for each student. Restructured some of the upper school.

3 plus years of research. Flexible uses of time and space. Teachers have been researching scheduling. Izone was part SLT....? Work more with parents, surveys will be created.

Teachers: presented their feedback and response to the block scheduling has already been voted on by teachers. Kate Hickey: said that it's going well in humanities. Previously they had double periods for 3 days 100 minutes. Now 90 minutes double. She's had good feedback. Very invaluable structure for learning. Having enough time to get learning done. Politics and Polling class (activity, mini lesson, conversation. Irene Krugman: creative writing upper house. She knows how change looks. Previously had 5 (five) 48 minute blocks. Now there's time to deal with text/ Now there's freedom to watch a clip and have conversation. Has to think about curriculum now but will ease up as we get used to it. It will take training. Longer day; has positives and negatives. Long day. Ultimate longer attention span will be helpful. Able to give longer texts. "Learning to love the blocks", not perfect but ...better.

Question: how does the 90 minutes look? Do the kids have to stay in seat for 90 minutes? **Ms. Reed:** 9th grade ISM project 100% turn in. Research topic, verify topic, Anatomy in upper house: running similar as college classes. Irene: parents need to make teachers accountable.

Question: "Is homework load more or less with expanded time?" Will there be less homework? Irene is assigning less homework for now. More thinking and reflecting. "Will you be going through curriculum more quickly?" Not necessarily. Creative writing is being slowed down.

Budget isn't available for afterschool. Stay turned. When there's crunch time there should be extra help sessions.

Mastery lab: habits and fill the gap how to organize. 3 times in 9th 1 in 10, Most clubs happening on Friday, campus clubs will be afterschool

Sharing lunch hour with 2 other schools

840 now 830 for A block. 33 minutes for advisory. 830-336 830 clubs and lunch or lunch or clubs

Why can't they leave early 27 ½ hours. Developing a contract internship....

Can Kaplan rent space for a class: extracurricular what about sports? Students leaving campus

What are these kids going to do afterschool? It gives the kids opportunity to manage time. PROSE initiative. Hours are a problem. Jobs afterschool, its always going to be a problem. Internships during the day. ID NYC free stuff suggested assignments. Have choices to make. If we don't vote to approve the shift of the school schedule then there's a protocol.

PROSE rolled out very quickly. We'd have to hold a vote.

Kids that have to leave early. There is a mechanism for adjustment. Ongoing, have protocols,

What time does the elementary school get out? 4. Teacher's were for 89% for the shift in schedule. Still on the fence on some issues of the change. What is process of voting? What is the community willing to take on. What would be acceptable?

Fundraising: programs, college trips, student activities, naviance, professional development, prom, art show produced in past, Camp Bernie, cameras, digital photography, Staff hit on funding,

Parents did question if schedule took 3 months to create, then why wasn't there an email conversation this summer? **Motion:** Parent Teacher Organization will agree to a shift in school schedule as follows: Monday -Thursday 8:30-3:36pm and Friday 8:30-12:36pm Motion was passed: 33 for and 4 against. There was a request for a chance to review/assess the new schedule. This could be done via SLT.

Treasurers Report: Presented by co treasurer Sue Graef. We have \$34,000 in the bank. There were approved bus trips that have not been processed. (We were waiting for receipts. Planning to propose budget. Camp Bernie. Budget. Request was made for \$1,600 campus wide 23 kids girls soccer shirts. Discussion was held. Tabled. Budget was passed unanimously as is.

Fun "d" Raising: buses are expensive. A fund raising challenge was presented: If 25% of the families (100 families) The anonymous donor will donate \$2,000. If 50% or 200 families donate then a \$5,000. Donation will be made. Deadline will be school year end (June 2016) Some events to plan: Barnes & Noble Book Fair, Auction night. What would it take to get parents to an event? McCourting (Pot lot) Website: recommendations, Pot luck: each class will be asked to bring Freshman and Soph/main dishes, Juniors/dessert and Seniors beverages.

Minutes: June 9th minutes passed

Newly formed Community Service Committee is looking for a chair. Each child needs 50 hours of community service. The goal is to find creative options. PTA also looking for 9th grade rep.

Meeting adjourned and option to continue discussion at Fred's.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ashland Crowson
Co-Secretary